Adult Education

*68. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the planning Commission has earmarked Rs. 3, 600 crore to complete the unfinished task of educating all adult illiterates;

(b) if so, the number of adult illiterates at present;

(c) the States in which the adult illiteracy is rampant;

(d) whether any criteria has been laid down to determine the manner in which the amount will be utilised for achieving this aim in the Ninth Plan;

(e) the total amount to be spent annually on this project; and

(f) the States to whom this amount will be allocated?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. R. BOMMAI): (a) The allocations in this respect have not yet been finalised by the Planning Commission.

(b) The National Literacy Mission aims at covering adult illiterates of the age group 15-33 years. The number of such illiterates is estimated at 54.73 million at present.

(c) The states in which literacy rate is below national average are Meghalaya (49.10%), Orissa (49.09%), Madhya Pradesh (44.20%), Andhra Pradesh (44.09%), Uttar Pradesh (41.60%), Arunachal Pradesh (41.59%), Dadra & Nagar Haveli (40.71%), Rajasthan (38.55%) and Bihar (38.48%).

(d) The amount to be made available for this purpose during the 9th Plan is proposed to be utilized in the following manner: (i) For imparting Literacy skills under Literacy Campaigns & Continuing Education schemes. (ii) For Skill training under the scheme of Shramik Vidypeeths. (iii) For Voluntary Organisations (iv) For Media through the Directorate of Adult Education. (v) On salary & supportive services as may be required.

(e) An amount of Rs. 107 crores has been earmarked for the year 97-98. Further planning would be done after the final plan allocations are known.

(f) No state-wise allocation of funds is made. The funds are sanctioned to various organisations/Zilla Saksharata Samitis/States based on individual projects.

Mobile Phone Service

*69. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the MTNL have any plan to introduce Mobile Phone service in the Metropolitan cities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the MTNL propose to cover the entire country with Mobile Phone service; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Yes, Sir. MTNL has drawn up plans to launch Mobile Phone Service in the Metropolitan cities of Mumbai and Delhi.

(b) The details are under finalisation by the MTNL.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

"Environmental Disaster in Indonesia"

*70. SHRI RAMSAGAR:

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-items captioned "Indian Powderkegs; Waiting to explode", "Haze hits Colombo; no threat to India yet" appearing in the Times of India dated October 5, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) whether Government foresee any possibility of the calamity of this nature in India and propose to take timely action in this regard; and

(e) whether Government have studied the El Nino phenomenon and its possible effect in the South East Asian region?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) to (d) The news-item refers to growing air and water pollution in India, generation of toxic wastes, depletion of natural resources and loss of productivity. The newsitem also makes reference to the Indonesian forest fire and lessons which the incident has for India. the growth of the industrial and transport sector, other economic activities as well as rise in population has resulted in increasing levels of pollution in India. For controlling pollution and protecting and improving the environment, the Government have introduced requisite legislation including the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 Water Act, 1974, Air Act, 1981, Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, etc. Recently the National Environment Appellate Authority was established for hearing appeals against orders granting environment clearance. The enforcement of the laws is effected through the Pollution Control Boards and various other Central and State